

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A mask including:  
a shell; and  
a cushion connected with said shell;  
said shell having a side wall[,];  
~~said shell having~~ a retaining ring disposed permanently secured to the shell inside  
said side wall, said side wall and said retaining ring defining a gap between said side wall  
and said retaining ring, said gap extending around said shell;  
said cushion having a side wall with an outer peripheral edge portion including a  
tongue extending around said cushion;  
said tongue of said cushion being received in said gap and being engaged by said  
retaining ring ~~in said shell~~ to secure said cushion to said shell.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A mask as set forth in claim [2] 1 wherein said shell side  
~~wall~~ includes a plurality of projecting posts, and said retaining ring ~~having~~ includes a plurality of  
sleeves receiving said posts to ~~support~~ permanently secure said retaining ring ~~on~~ inside said side  
wall of said shell.
4. (Original) A nasal mask including:  
a shell; and  
a cushion connected with said shell for engagement with the face of a user;  
said cushion having a side wall, an inner wall extending transverse to said side  
wall, and an outer wall extending transverse to said side wall, said outer wall being adapted to  
engage and seal against a face of a user of the mask;  
said outer wall of said cushion extending substantially completely around said  
cushion;

said inner wall of said cushion being discontinuous in a nasal bridge region of said cushion.

5. (Original) A nasal mask as set forth in claim 4 wherein said inner wall of said cushion is thicker and stronger than said outer wall of said cushion for supporting said outer wall.

6 - 25 (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A nasal mask as set forth in claim 4 wherein the outer wall extends laterally inward from the side wall, and the inner wall extends around the side wall.

27. (Previously Presented) A nasal mask as set forth in claim 4 wherein the inner wall of the cushion is stiffer than the outer wall for supporting the outer wall.

28. (Previously Presented) A nasal mask as set forth in claim 27 wherein the inner wall of the cushion is thicker than the outer wall and is spaced from the user's face when the outer wall seals against a face of a user of the mask.

29. (Previously Presented) A nasal mask as set forth in claim 4 wherein the inner wall of the cushion is thicker than the outer wall and is spaced from the user's face when the outer wall seals against a face of a user of the mask.

30. (New) The mask of claim 1 wherein said sleeves are heat staked on said posts to permanently secure the retaining ring to the shell.

31. (New) The mask of claim 4 wherein said inner wall of said cushion is not present in said nasal bridge region of said cushion.

32. (New) The mask of claim 4 wherein a gap is formed between two ends of the inner wall of said cushion in said nasal bridge region of said cushion.

33. (New) A mask including:  
a shell having a side wall;  
a cushion;  
a retaining ring permanently secured to the shell inside said side wall by sleeves that are heat staked on posts;  
said side wall and said retaining ring defining a gap between said side wall and said retaining ring, said gap extending around said shell;  
said cushion having a side wall with an outer peripheral edge portion including a tongue extending around said cushion, said tongue of said cushion being received in said gap and being engaged by said retaining ring to secure said cushion to said shell.

34. (New) A nasal mask including:  
a shell; and  
a cushion connected with said shell for engagement with the face of a user;  
said cushion having a side wall, an inner wall extending transverse to said side wall, and an outer wall extending transverse to said side wall, said outer wall being adapted to engage and seal against a face of a user of the mask;  
said outer wall of said cushion extending substantially completely around said cushion;  
said inner wall of said cushion having spaced apart ends that form a gap at a nasal bridge region of said cushion.